

Message Text

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17

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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INFOO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XG, NO

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN VISITS OSLO

REFS: OSLO 0967

SUMMARY: AFL:CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN HELD USEFUL VISIT TO OSLO MARCH 19-21 WHERE HE EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH KEY NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. BROWN ENCOURAGED NORWEGIANS IN FOSTERING CLOSER AFL-CIO AND NORWEGIAN LABOR ORGANIZATION CONTACTS AND URGED THEM TO PUT MORE IMPORTANCE ON OECD AS VALUABLE FORUM FOR US-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION. END SUMMARY

1. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN

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CONCLUDED USEFUL VISIT OSLO MARCH 19-21 DURING WHICH

HE MET WITH KEY NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION
(LO) AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME
MINISTER BRATTELI AND DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL.

2. LO OFFICIALS INVITED BROWN TO OSLO IN LIGHT
OF HIS ALLEGED CRITICISM OF THE WAY THEY
WERE APPROACHING RECENT GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE
UNION CONTACT DISCUSSIONS (REFTEL) AND LO'S
DESIRE TO FOSTER LO CONTACTS WITH AFL-CIO.

3. LO OFFICIALS AND BROWN HAD LIVELY AND FRIENDLY
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH LO PRESIDENT ASPENGREN
OUTLINING HIS INTEREST IN GREATER CONTACTS WITH
AFL-CIO AND LO, AND VICE PRESIDENT ODD HOJDAHL POINTING
OUT NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF AND APPROACH
TO EAST-WEST CONTACTS, EMPHASIZING THE LO'S LOYALTY
TO THE WEST AND NATO ALLIANCE. BROWN AGREED WITH
ENHANCING AFL-CIO AND LO CONTACTS. HE VIGOROUSLY
DEFENDED AFL-CIO POLICY ON TRADE UNION EXCHANGES
WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND OUTLINED WIDE-RANGE
OF ACTIVITIES HIS UNION WAS UNDERTAKING ABROAD.
IN MEETING WITH BROWN, PRIME MINISTER STRESSED
NEED FOR MORE US LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
UNION ACTIVITIES.

4. AS TO FURTHER LO CONTACTS WITH AFL-CIO BROWN
SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT
MEANY WITHIN A WEEK. HE SUGGESTED FIRMING UP
PLANS FOR MAY VISIT TO NORWAY OF A HIGH LEVEL
AFL-CIO DELEGATION. HE ENCOURAGED NORWEGIANS
TO CONCENTRATE THEIR PLANNED TRIP THIS FALL
TO US ON WASHINGTON STOP TO MEET WITH
APPROPRIATE AFL-CIO LEADERS RATHER THAN FOCUS ON
AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO WHERE THEY WOULD
PROBABLY NOT GET APPROPRIATE PERSONAL ATTENTION. HE
POINTED TO IMPORTANCE OF OECD TUAC AS USEFUL ARENA
FOR US-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION.
BUCHANAN

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